

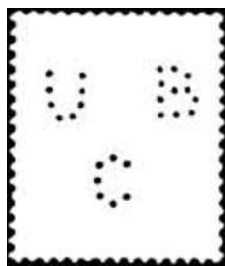
YOU NEED TO LOOK CLOSELY!

Stephen Steere

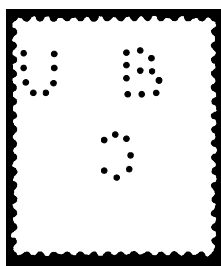
I have recently acquired the cover shown on the front of the Bulletin. It is used by the United Baltic Corporation Ltd and has a 1/- and 3d GVI stamps, both with provisional perfins – the 1/- with perfin UB (U0210.02p) and the 3d with UB/C (U0230.04p). The cover is dated 5th November 1941 so is an early provisional as Slopers was bombed in May 1941. On closer examination though I suddenly realised that the C of UB/C appeared to be reversed!

At the Spring meeting I showed the piece to **Roy Gault** to get his expert opinion. Roy said that he had never seen anything like it, and coming out of the Sloper workshop makes it all the more unique as they were so careful how they perforated their stamps. It appears that the “C” was struck from the front of the stamp making it inverted (i.e. the sheet was face up but upside down) rather than reversed (which would be from the gummed side, but with the sheet upright).

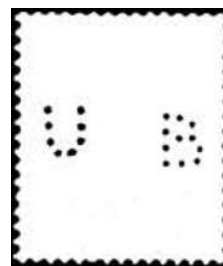
So it appears that the U and B were perforated in the normal way, then the sheet or sheets were put down. Maybe there was an air raid warning or a tea break or perhaps the UB was made by the single die machine, and then passed over to a multi-head die machine. The sheet(s) were then put in inverted, which resulted in the C being reversed. As this is just a variation of the provisional die Roy has not allocated a new catalogue number but will add a note to the catalogue.



U0230.04p



U0230.04p



U0210.02ap

Members at the meeting wondered why the mail rate was 1/3d when the Atlantic rate was 2/6d - maybe it was sent before prices increased. I was also told that mail to the US was not censored after Pearl Harbour (Dec 41) when the US joined us in the war, but do not know if that is correct. Do any other members have a similar item or can provide more information on the mail rate?